

TOGETHER FOR HOPE



**INSIDE: Coleen Nolan, Fiona Phillips
and Sheffield women of steel**

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Let HOPE triumph over hate

BY ROS WYNNE-JONES

This booklet is not a normal piece of election material.

It doesn't come in support of one party or another. It comes in support of an idea. Backed by people from all different political parties and from all different backgrounds, we are campaigning for HOPE at the general and local elections.

HOPE not hate is a campaign that is now six years old. It has the backing of a national newspaper, the *Daily Mirror*, it's backed by Britain's main trade unions, household names from Simon Cowell to Eddie Izzard, Fiona Phillips to Coleen Nolan, and by hundreds of thousands of ordinary people.

Its message is very simple: that we've all seen what hatred and division can do to our



Ros meets a Harlem Globe Trotter on a HOPE not hate tour

communities and how it can tear neighbourhoods apart.

We know that Britain isn't perfect. There are all sorts of problems facing people struggling to get by in working class communities and poorer neighbourhoods.

But we also know that racism – the solution peddled by a tiny minority – isn't the answer. Instead, HOPE not hate aims to show our modern diverse country in a positive light, celebrating what is great about Britain, while looking at other ways to tackle the problems we face.

We believe that by facing problems together rather than as a divided society we are much more likely to solve them.

We hope that you enjoy this booklet with its contributions from ordinary people and some famous names. And we hope you will vote for HOPE not hate – for any party but the BNP – in the national and local elections on Thursday 6 May.

Read Ros's HOPE not hate blog http://blogs.mirror.co.uk/hope-not-hate/ros_wynne-jones/

3 reasons for women not to vote BNP



1



NICK ERIKSEN, a former London BNP organiser, said: ***"Rape is simply sex. Women enjoy sex, so rape cannot be such a terrible physical ordeal."***

To suggest that rape, when conducted without violence, is a serious crime is like suggesting that force feeding a woman chocolate cake is a heinous offence. A woman would be more inconvenienced by having her handbag snatched."

2

ROBERT WEST, a leading BNP officer, has said that the answer to the recession is for women to work at home.



3

JEFF MARSHALL, a BNP branch organiser, referring to the death of David Cameron's disabled son, aged six, said: ***"There is actually not a great deal of point in keeping these sort of people alive"***. He also wrote:

"We live in a country today which is unhealthily dominated by an excess of sentimentality towards the weak and unproductive. No good will come of it."



To find out more about the repulsive BNP visit
www.hopenothate.org.uk



Our Britain is b

BY FIONA PHILLIPS

WHO COULD have failed to be moved by the scenes from the Haiti earthquake?

The images from earlier this year of tiny children being pulled from the wreckage, of the bodies piling up in the streets, and people desperate for food and water, moved the British people to give generously from their own pockets.

Only one voice – speaking as a British elected representative in the European Parliament – shamed our country.

Only the British National Party's leader – and now MEP for the North West of England – saw the death of up to 230,000 people as a political opportunity.

Describing UK aid to Haiti as “stinking elite hypocrisy”, Nick Griffin wrote on Facebook and Twitter that “while the Haiti earthquake is terrible, the winter death toll in Britain will be similar. No aid here though.”

Of course Britain isn't perfect, and of course as a country we have our own problems. But the idea that almost a quarter of a million people could die from the effects of a British winter is pure fantasy.

This is because of our sometimes flawed, but also life-saving welfare state – something the BNP believes is a “free hand out to scroungers”.

I write about Griffin's Haiti comments for several reasons. Firstly it shows what happens when we elect BNP members to represent us in parliament. Rather than come up with constructive policies, they prefer shocking soundbites that shame our country. Secondly, what he said shows how



ill-informed he is about modern Britain.

But what is also telling is the lack of humanity Griffin and the BNP repeatedly show. They claim to represent the poor and downtrodden and yet have no compassion for those in the most desperate of circumstances.

Last year, Griffin was elected to the European Parliament to represent British people. This year, the threat is even graver.

Griffin is standing for MP in the east London constituency of Barking in the general election. On the same day, there are local elections that could see the BNP win control of its first council in the same area.

etter than theirs



The really shocking thing is that unless we turn up at the polling stations and vote on election day, he and his party could actually win.

Women are the BNP's real weakness. We sense that whatever they pretend, they just aren't a normal party. And we know they aren't just racist to their very core, they are sexist too.

Their candidates have said repeatedly that working mothers are "unnatural". Former London BNP organiser Nick Eriksen even compared rape to being force fed chocolate.

But it's not just because of their direct attacks on women that they have so few



NO HUMANITY: BNP leader Nick Griffin

women supporters. It's because of what they want for our communities – because they represent a bitter, divided future that none of us want to see our children inherit.

That's why I'm always proud at every election to take a stand for HOPE not hate.

One of the ways the BNP got elected in the North West and Yorkshire in last year's European elections was because too few people voted. The number of votes they got actually went down in those regions, yet they still got two candidates elected.

So, this year, we need women to stand up in their communities and be counted – to get registered on the electoral roll, and turn up to the ballot boxes and vote. It's about recognising that the BNP aren't an ordinary political party, and voting for any other party to keep them out.

When women act together we have a powerful history of changing things. I hope you'll join me this year to fight want to tear our communities apart. ■

WOMEN OF STEEL

SHEFFIELD'S WOMEN OF STEEL are set to receive a city centre monument as a big thank you for their efforts during the Second World War.

Hundreds of women worked in the city's steel mills to fill the gap left by men fighting for the country. They did their bit by working gruelling shifts making vital parts for tanks, ships and guns, often while looking after young families.

But it was only when the surviving women began to speak up, led by 88-year-old Kathleen Roberts, that their efforts began to be recognised.

"It's pretty wonderful because a lot of people didn't know what we did. In those days you didn't speak about it," says Kathleen, who grew up in Firth Park and whose dad also worked in a foundry. "But you hear about the women's land army and the Bevin Boys and I thought hang on a minute what about us!

"Whatever was made during the war

had to come from Sheffield, we were the first line, at the rough end of things," says Kathleen, who first went to work rolling steel for Metro Vickers on Aftercliffe Common in 1938 when she was 17.

"I had to learn how to maintain the machines and it was very heavy, long work. It was 12-hour shifts, nights and days."

Kathleen was persuaded to tell her story by her two daughters who want her to record her memories for future family generations.

"The foundries were daunting. It was so noisy with hammers banging away all the



(left to right) Women of Steel Dorothy Slingsby, 88, Kit Sollitt, 90, Ruby Gascoigne, 87, and Kathleen Roberts, 88, at the House of Commons where Veterans Minister Kevan Jones presented them with commemorative Second World War lamps



time and really dirty. You wanted to turn around and walk out the door but in those days you had to just get on and do it," says headstrong Kathleen.

The factory's remaining men had to train the girls but didn't give them an easy ride. "They didn't take kindly to us at first! But we proved we could do it."

Woman of Steel Kit Sollitt, 90, went to train as a sand miller and then as a coremaker and still has scars to prove it.



"I was given a wheelbarrow and taught how to mix. It was like making sand pies," laughs Kit.

One of the best things was support in the tough times, says Kathleen. "You learnt to give as good as you got and stand on your own two feet. You'd meet girls from all walks of life but we developed a real camaraderie and when I received bad news about my husband being wounded I felt lucky for the support."

We also saw a lot of heartache. Sometimes husbands were killed and you just turned up the next day whatever had happened. We were tough ladies."

The women stopped working after the war and Kathleen left to look after husband Joe. "He was seriously wounded on D-Day on the first landing. He was in hospital for almost a year," says Kathleen. "Joe passed away two years ago bless him. He didn't know about the recognition we've received but when I asked my daughters 'I wonder what your dad would say,' they said 'he'd be so proud of you.'"

For the nation's health

FACT

Our public services have been built upon immigrants. Foreign-born workers make up

16 of care



NON-WHITE AND OVERSEAS nurses bring much-needed skills and experience to our health service but their hard work and dedication is too often rewarded with racism.

The NHS has always seen the benefit of attracting medical staff from around the world. As early as 1949 it ran recruitment campaigns for nurses from the Caribbean, Malaysia and other parts of the Commonwealth.

Ten years ago a chronic shortage of nurses meant the NHS was effectively propped up by staff from overseas who became vital to boosting numbers in our hospitals, surgeries and care homes. Now the service is staffed by a rich mix of nurses from all over the world and from British non-white communities.

"I've practised and trained with people from absolutely everywhere," says 33-year-old midwife Rachel Voller. "If you name a country in the world I've worked with someone from there. I think it brings something to the service especially the different experiences that people have."

"I think the workforce should reflect the world we live in, especially in London which is such a multiculturally diverse place," says Rachel, who has been nursing for ten years and is white.

"Particularly when I was training as a nurse, I remember training under a Filipino. Their skills and training are second to none. They have amazing



knowledge, which they've passed on to me, and I don't think I'd have just got it from my nursing institute," Rachel says.

Overseas nurses in the NHS are not the first to have done their bit for the British medical profession. Over 150 years ago Jamaican nurse Mary Seacole became a heroine after aiding British soldiers in the Crimean War. She overcame prejudice over her colour and her sex to become a pioneer of the nursing profession alongside Florence Nightingale and later attended the Princess of Wales.

But not everyone appreciates the hard work and dedication shown by the NHS's migrant workforce, says Rachel.

"There's quite a lot of racism shown to them from members of the public. The NHS has a zero-tolerance policy but it is an issue," says Rachel.

"The wider public don't necessarily appreciate how much we rely on staff from outside the UK – not because we're short but because they bring some excellent skills – and how the NHS just wouldn't function

0%
of all workers
in the health
service

13%
of all workers
in the health
service

40%
of new dentists

10%
of nursing assistants

30%
of new doctors



without the doctors, nurses, porters and admin staff that make up the migrant workforce.”

The Department of Health says it puts “equality at the heart of the NHS” and is proud of the diversity and the role that all women staff play in delivering a world-class service.

“We are proud of the contribution that

nurses, doctors and other health professionals from black and ethnic minority communities make to the NHS,” said a spokeswoman.

“We are committed to an NHS that provides a comprehensive service, available to all, and as an employer our aim is to recruit, develop and retain the best talent from all communities.”

A million voices against the BNP

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voices
for
public
services



Don't let the BNP break up our public services.



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UNISON
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For more information go to unison.org.uk/stopthebnp



At the seaside

BY COLEEN NOLAN

Mirror columnist and Loose Women presenter

Britain has always been a melting pot of different types of people. It's one of the things that makes us what we are as a nation.

I grew up in Blackpool, a place many people think of as being as English as you can get, with its Pleasure Beach, fish and chips and kiss-me-quick hats.

But being on the Irish Sea means it has always had a strong immigrant community. My own family was no exception. My parents Maureen and Tommy came over from Dublin three years before I was born – looking for a new life, and hoping to make a living from Blackpool's thriving music scene.

In those days, boarding houses used to put up the sign "No Blacks, No Irish, No Dogs" and job adverts would have "NINA" – "No Irish Need Apply".

Nowadays, it's other communities who face the kind of discrimination the Irish

faced – black and Asian people, Poles and other immigrants. But as Irish people, we all remember what it's like to be on the receiving end.

I've always been proud of my Irish roots – and at the same time incredibly proud of being born on British soil. I'm also proud to come from such a mixed and vibrant community. Over the centuries, Blackpool has been home to Vikings, Romans and British tribes, many of whom co-existed peacefully.

Today the town has a Buddhist centre, dozens of Catholic and Church of England churches, a mosque, two synagogues, and its own Hindu and Sikh communities. Its fish and chip shops are next to Indian restaurants, Chinese takeaways, pizza parlours and fried chicken outlets. Irish stew is there alongside chicken tikka and everyone's favourite native dish, Lancashire hotpot.

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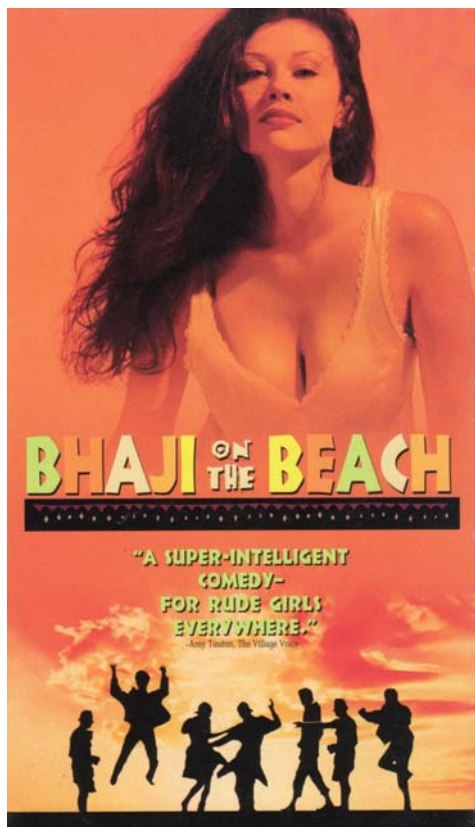
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everyone is welcome



Blackpool was also the setting for the film *Bhaji on the Beach*, the hilarious story of a group of Indian women who go to the English seaside for the day. Everyone loves the seaside, no matter what culture they're from.

I've always thought that diversity is one of Britain's greatest assets. As long as it comes with a healthy sense of community it makes our towns and cities stronger, not weaker.

I've no time for groups like the British National Party because they want to portray everything in a negative light.

“ I think women are harder to fool than men. That's why only a third of those who vote BNP are women. We don't want trouble in our communities and we don't want to see our neighbourhoods torn apart by hatred and division. We can see how much there is to lose. ”

They are constantly exploiting difference and highlighting it to try and make it seem as if immigrants are to blame for every single little thing that goes wrong. We all know life's not that simple.

I think women are harder to fool than men. As we take our kids to school or visit the local shops, as we go round the supermarket or sit in the GP's waiting room, we see Britain as it really is. Not some scary divided country, but a place where for the most part everybody rubs along together.

That's why only a third of those who vote BNP are women. We don't want trouble in our communities and we don't want to see our neighbourhoods torn apart by hatred and division. We can see how much there is to lose.

That's not to say I think Britain's perfect. There's a lot of things I'd like to change. But it does mean at the general election next month there's no way I'd vote for racism or a racist party. The Britain I believe in is much better than that. ■

Join the movement for

HOPE



Hollyoaks stars are just a few of the celebrities who have signed up to support the HOPE not hate campaign

The HOPE not hate campaign mobilises everyone opposed to the BNP's politics of hate.

It has the support of the *Daily Mirror*, trade unions, celebrities and community groups across the country.

If you reject the politics of hate then please get involved.

Whatever the time you can give, there is something for you to do. Together we can make sure that HOPE triumphs over hate.

To get involved please visit our website or email us at cathy@hopenothate.org.uk

This leaflet was produced by the **HOPE not hate** campaign. We believe that racism is fundamentally wrong and that Britain's diverse society should be celebrated.

To find out more about us and to add your support, write to:

HOPE not hate, PO Box 1576, Ilford IG5 0NG

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